

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO, CU, VE, MX, PN

SUBJECT: CASTRO VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

1. CUBAN PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO LEFT FOR BULGARIA MARCH 8 AFTER A THREE-DAY WORKING VISIT HERE. IN HIS TOAST AT AN OFFICIAL DINNER CASTRO EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD COME TO YUGOSLAVIA FOLLOWING THE SOVIET CP CONGRESS BECAUSE SCHEDULING PROBLEMS PREVENTED PRESIDENT TITO FROM VISITING CUBA ON HIS TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA. TITO LEFT FOR MEXICO, PANAMA AND VENEZUELA ON MARCH 9.

2. CASTRO SPENT HIS TIME IN AND AROUND TITO'S RETREAT ON THE ISLAND OF BRIONI. HE MET WITH TITO, KARDELJ, DOLANC, BAKARIC AND OTHER TOP YUGOSLAV LEADERS.

3. CASTRO VISIT WAS WELL PUBLICIZED BUT GIVEN NO SINGLE THEME. PRESIDENT TITO'S TOAST AT OFFICIAL DINNER, BRIEF COMMUNIQUE AND EDITORIAL COMMENT GENERALLY MADE
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THESE POINTS: CONGRATULATIONS TO CASTRO ON THE SUCCESS

OF HIS REVOLUTION, COMPARISON BETWEEN THE CUBAN AND YUGOSLAV STRUGGLES AGAINST FOREIGN PRESSURES, RECOGNITION THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE FOLLOWING SEPARATE PATHS TO SOCIALISM, CUBA AS AN EXAMPLE FOR THE REST OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE WORLD, AND THE COMMON GOALS OF CUBA AND YUGOSLAVIA AS NON-ALIGNED AND SOCIALIST STATES.

4. IN HIS TOAST, TITO NOTED CONTINUED ATTEMPTS TO DIVIDE THE NON-ALIGNED STATES. "AND THE FORCES OF INTERNAL AND FOREIGN REACTION STILL DO NOT HESITATE TO USE THE MOST TERRIBLE TERROR AND FORCE, SPARING NOT EVEN THE LATIN AMERICAN AREA", HE SAID.

5. TITO CITED ANGOLA AS AN EXAMPLE OF SUCH EFFORTS BY "IMPERIALISM AND NEOCOLONIALISM". HE WELCOMED THE VICTORY OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE "OVER THE IMPERIALIST AND RACIST FORCES WHICH ATTEMPTED TO ENDANGER THE FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF PROGRESSIVE AND NON-ALIGNED ANGOLA." TITO PRAISED CUBA FOR ITS "RICH CONTRIBUTION" TO ANGOLA'S EFFORTS TOWARD INDEPENDENT INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT AND AN INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY.

6. FINAL COMMUNIQUE WAS UNUSUALLY BRIEF (SIX-PARAGRAPHS) AND DID NOT INCLUDE THE NORMAL SURVEY OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. THE LEADERS JUDGED CUBAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS TO BE DEVELOPING "SUCCESSFULLY" BASED ON "MUTUAL RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION, ALONG WITH RECIPROCAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DIFFERENCES IN WAYS OF BUILDING SOCIALISM AND THE INTERNATIONAL POSITION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES."

7. COMMENT: AT FIRST GLANCE, CUBA AND YUGOSLAVIA WOULD SEEM TO HAVE MUCH IN COMMON. THEY ARE BOTH COMMUNIST NATIONS CLAIMING NON-ALIGNMENT AND ARE PROBABLY CONSCIOUS OF SHARING A COMMON PERCEPTION OF BEING THREATENED BY NEARBY SUPERPOWERS. BUT DESPITE TITO'S STATEMENT PRAISING CUBAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANGOLA'S STRUGGLE FOR THE RIGHT TO BE INTERNALLY INDEPENDENT AND EXTERNALLY NON-ALIGNED, THE VISIT DIDN'T OBLITERATE TRADITIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YUGOSLAV-CUBAN DIFFERENCES. THE COMMUNIQUE AND PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE VISIT REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO THE MUTUAL RESPECT AND DIFFERING VIEWS OF SOCIALISM OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. THESE ADMISSIONS OF DIFFERENCES WERE REINFORCED BY A COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS UNUSUALLY SHORT IN LENGTH AND SUBSTANCE FOR A VISIT BY A NON-ALIGNED AND COMMUNIST LEADER. THE VISIT ITSELF DRAMATIZED TRADITIONAL YUGOSLAV AND CUBAN IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES; CASTRO,

FRESH FROM CPSU CONGRESS WHERE HE WAS ONE OF MOSCOW'S
STAR SYNCOPHANTS, WAS MET ON ARRIVAL IN YUGOSLAVIA BY
DOLANC WHO EXPLOITED HIS FORUM IN MOSCOW TO FIRMLY
REITERATED YUGOSLAVIA'S INDEPENDENCE FROM MOSCOW.
THOUGH NOT PUBLICLY YUGOSLAVS ALSO PRIVATELY EXPRESS
RESERVATIONS ABOUT CUBA'S NON-ALIGNMENT.
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